

BOUNDARY INVENTORY FILE

Austria-Hungary Boundary

At the present time, there appears to be no real conflict between Austria and Hungary over the location of their common boundary. The existing boundary was fixed essentially after World War I by the Peace Treaties of St. Germain and Trianon, whereby the disputed Burgenland district was transferred from Hungary to Austria. The boundary was modified later as a result of the Sopron plebiscite, which returned part of Burgenland to Hungary in 1922. Thus, the present boundary is that of the Trianon Treaty of 1920 as modified by the Sopron plebiscite. The Sopron area is the only significant potential source of trouble between the two countries, and this is not likely to lead to an open dispute.

Such disagreements as exist between the two countries concern the control and administration of the frontier regions rather than the actual location of the boundary. The principal difficulty has been the Hungarian maintenance of strict border security and the effects that these security measures have had on the people of the neighboring Austrian territory. Some difficulty, however, has arisen because of the inaccurate location and disrepair of many boundary markers, which makes the boundary in some sectors hard to locate precisely and increases the possibility of border incidents.

To facilitate the orderly control of the border and of movement across the frontier, both governments want a new demarcation of the boundary. In July 1961, Austria and Hungary reached accord on an agreement over the physical demarcation of the boundary and the maintenance of border markers, and the agreement was to have been ratified at some future unspecified date. Further negotiations to arrange procedures for the joint investigation of border incidents were scheduled for the autumn of 1961. No specific information on the outcome of these plans is currently available. Hungary wants all border violations investigated by special commissions, and it appears that some agreement will eventually be worked out along these lines. On the other hand, it does not seem likely that Austria will be successful in getting Hungary to move its security installations some distance back from the actual border and thereby reduce the chance of border violations.